

## ***Community Enhancement Accomplishments October 2017***

Community Enhancement's mission is to enhance, restore and maintain the quality of the county's neighborhoods and business communities through partnerships and coordination of public and private efforts. We will accomplish this mission pursuing the objectives of enhancing service coordination, getting ahead of problems and promoting community ownership and investment. Specific accomplishment for these objectives are described below

### **Enhancing Service Coordination – Assist communities through a fusion of effort and information**

- Meeting with Henrico – Staff from the department met with the leadership of Henrico County's Department of Community Revitalization. The meeting focused on lessons learned and successful techniques that their department had employed in their twelve years of operation.
- Training – To support the department's goal of providing comprehensive field inspections and enhanced customer service, many department staff attended training at Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. This training coupled with a passing grade on a certification examination is required for inspectors who enforce the property maintenance provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

### **Get ahead of Problems – Maintain high community standards by taking a proactive approach to property maintenance and investment**

- Quality of Life Initiative - The Police Department and the Community Enhancement Department will be partnering for a series of joint initiatives to address quality of life issues in different subdivisions in our community. The Police Department will be addressing police-related issues and the Community Enhancement Department addressing zoning and other code violations that impact quality of life for our residents. In October, the activity focused on the Glen Tara subdivision and resulted in the identification of 75 code and property maintenance violations.

### **Promote Community Ownership & Investment – Working with other community groups**

- 3100 Pineland Ave – Wells Fargo donated a vacant house at 3100 Pineland Ave with the provision that the house be rehabilitated or demolished. We have partnered with Project:HOMES where they will accept the parcel, demolish the existing structure and rebuild a small single family home that will be offered to a low income purchaser. If successful, this effort will provide affordable housing for a family and will improve the value of surrounding property.
- CDBG Proposals - Prior to the FY 2019 CDBG/HOME Request for Proposal (RFP) Process, the county hosted a pre-proposal conference on Friday, October 13, 2017 for organizations interested in applying for funding. Questions, answers, and issues were addressed at this session. 36 people representing 29 different organizations were in attendance at this meeting. RFP applications are due by 5:00pm on Thursday, November 30, 2017.
- Community Organizations – CE staff recently met with numerous community organizations to help them understand the county's new commitment to community enhancement and to share information about our improved rehabilitation tax exemption program. These organizations included: Brandermill Community Association, Chester Kiwanis Club, DuPont Community Advisory Committee, Fuqua Farms Civic Association, Richmond Association of Realtors, and the Trueheart Heights Association.
- Rehabilitation Tax Exemption – In 2016, we had 8 rehabilitation tax exemption applications (7 residential + 1 commercial). In 2017, we had 19 rehabilitation tax exemption applications (17 residential + 2 commercial). In sum, we've had more than double (+137%) increase in applications since the program was improved (December 2016) and subsequently heavily marketed.

## **Community Enhancement Accomplishments**

### **October 2017**

#### **Key Indicators**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>FYTD</b>
Cases Worked	353	1903
Avg. Work Days	7.8	7.6
Voluntary Compliance		93%
Revenue Collected	\$234,000	\$1,670,000

#### **Upcoming Events**

- **Quality of Life Initiative** - Our joint operation with PD is underway for November. This month's activities will be focused in the vicinity of the Quail Oaks subdivision.
- **Governor's Housing Conference** - CDBG/HOME staff will be attending the 2017 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference in Norfolk, Virginia on November 16, 2017.
- **Meeting with project:HOMES leadership** - Our objective is to build on a long standing relationship with this non-profit group that repairs and rehabilitates property in the community. An example of this work is the new construction that will take place at 3100 Pineland
- **Courthouse Road Median Plantings** – Tree plantings to help beautify the Courthouse Road median (between Hull Street Road and Midlothian Turnpike) are scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen new trees, funded by Clover Hill District Improvement Funds, will be planted.
- **Rehabilitation Tax Exemption Promotion** – CE staff have arranged with the Brandermill Community Association to distribute our rehabilitation tax exemption program brochures to each of their 4000 homeowners.
- **Empowering Neighborhoods Forum** – Early planning is underway for the Revitalize Our Communities Committee (ROCC) premier community event – the 2018 Empowering Neighborhoods Forum, to be held on March 3, 2018 at the Fulgham Conference Center.